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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/14/07

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Broaden University Research & Development SB 773

ANALYST Wilson

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)  
 Economic Development Department (EDD)  
 Public School Support (PSS)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 773 clarifies the scope of the existing University Research Park Act by amending certain sections of the NMSA 1978, of New Mexico. This bill introduces amendments to the original language of the Act that allow New Mexico universities to form research park corporations to pursue economic development initiatives that may not fit under the strict definition of technology or research, as long as these initiatives support university teaching, research or service missions.

Also, language has been added that includes the creation of learning opportunities for university students as part of economic development initiatives sponsored by research park corporations. For example, these amendments will allow the formation of a corporation for students to produce movies or other media products, which may not be characterized as research but are a part of the academic program. In addition, the definition of the “research park” has been broadened to include buildings and projects for the development of real property.

From the perspective of the HED, extending the title of the Act to include economic development underscores the importance of economic development initiatives in the state. Examples of such initiatives include the College Affordability Act, New Mexico Statewide Learning Project and the Governors Career Clusters.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no fiscal impact.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The University Research Park Act was signed into law in 1988. It was designed to give New Mexico universities, four and two year educational institutions, community colleges and vocational/technical institutes the authority to develop research parks and corporations for the socio-economic benefit of the people and the State.

New Mexico's colleges and universities can help drive economic development in our State. The goal of wealth and job creation for New Mexicans will be enhanced by the increased flexibility afforded by the proposed amendments to the University Research Park Act. This bill further enables New Mexico colleges and universities to take advantage of diverse economic development opportunities that benefit their communities, institutions, and the people of New Mexico by supporting college and university missions. This bill is endorsed by the Council of University Presidents.

DW/nt